8 C 0133

SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS OF

ENLARGED EXECUTIVE MEETING, HELD

TORONTO, OCT. 20th, 21st and 22nd. 1928

Present: Comrades Spector, Buck, Menzies, M. Buhay, Roberts, MacDonald, Hill, Alquist, Latva, Halpern, Kobsey, Boychuk, Ryan,
Rosenberg (District 2)
Shoesmith (District 3)
Thatchuk (District 4)
Wirta (District 5)
Comrade Buller from "The Worker."

Comrade Vaara from "Vapaus," and Comrade Popovich were present. On decision of the Pol-Com, C.P. of C., the Pol-Com of the N.E.C. of the Y.C.L. were present without voice or vote.

Comrade Halpern requested that Comrade Shure from the National Jewish Agit-Prop should be seated without voice or vote. This was agreed to.

AGENDA:
1. Report of Sixth Congress to C.I.
2. Ukrainian Question (Agit-Prop Appeal to C.I.).
3. Y.C.L. Report
4. Party Convention.
5. Organizational Tour of Party Units.

Comrade Rosenberg raised the question of placing the French Canadian question on the Agenda. Decision was made against placing any additional item on the Agenda at this time.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATION TO THE SIXTH CONGRESS

Comrade MacDonald reported

Approximately five hundred Delegates attended the Congress. Seventy-five of these were Delegates from Colonial countries, and over a hundred were there from non-European countries.

The Congress lasted for a period of six weeks. Items one and three on the Agenda particularly the most important item of the Programme occupied the major portion of time, and an extensive and high level of discussion was maintained.

The International Situation

Comrade Bukharin reported for the Executive of the C.I. He divided Post War Developments into three parts. Firstly the period of actue revolutionary crisis, particularly in Europe the culminating point of which was 1920 and 1921. This period included the February and October Revolutions in Finland, Austria, Germany Hungary, etc. This period can be said to have come to an end at the close of 1923 when in the Autumn of that year, severe defeats were suffered by the workers in Bulgaria and Germany.

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Slogan of Canadian Independence

Comrade MacDonald reported that this question had been discussed at great length on the Delegation and the thesis drafted regarding same. The Delegation was agreed that the Canadian Party would have to reorientate itself on this question. While it was true that since our first approach to the question of Canadian Independence, we had altered our line considerably, and when referring to this question in our report to the C.I. at the Sixth Congress, had referred to the Canadian Beourgoicie as a Partner of British Imperialism rather than a colony of the British Empire. Our official documents, leaflets, etc., however still referr to Canada as a colony. Comrade MacDonald read excerpts from a leaflet issued by the Party, entitled the Federal Elections and the Consitutional issue in proof of this.

The first document from the C.I. on this question, was quoted by Comrade MacDonald. This document stated:-

> "The chief enemy is British Imperialisms which holds the entire Government apparatus of Canada in its hands, and which does not only represent the peril of oppression in the future, but also oppression and exploitation in the present. The main struggle should be directed against British Imperialism, the British Monarchy and the British Beourgoicie the Party should fight energetically for the abrogation of the British North America Act."

In the last letter of the C.I. to the Party, received prior to the last Convention, there is a certain modification of this line. In the main however, the Party had approached the question of Canadian Independence as a ~~constitutional~~ constitutional issue. It had demanded that the Canadian Government repudiate the British North America Act, declare its Independence etc. Our reorientation on this question is to a great extent summed up in paragraph five of the thesis referred to.

> "The slogan of Canadian Independence under the workers and Farmers Government is not a slogan against colonial oppression which holds the perspective of the developement of the Proletariat Revolution through the stage of the Democratic Dictatorship of the Proletariat and peasantry."

The slogan of Canadian Independence under the workers and farmers Government is a slogan directed in the first place against the Canadian Beourgoicie and at the same time against British and American Imperialism not from the standpoint of Beourgois National self determination, but from the standpoint of the Proletariat Revolution. It is a slogan of the Proletariat Revolution in Canada, in accordance with the peculiar concrete conditions.

In a discussion with the A.A.S., the suggestion had been made to drop the slogan entirely. The consensus of opinion was however, against such action. As the thesis states, the stategical slogan of Canadian Independence under a Workers and Farmers Government has six purposes to fulfil.

(a) The primary function of the slogan is to link up the Revolutionary working class struggle against the Canadian Beourgoisie with the struggle against Imperialism and the War Danger.

(b) The slogan has the purpose of breaking the hold of British jingoist propaganda upon the Canadian masses.

(c) The slogan must be used to expose the reactionary character of the Nationalist Canadianism.

(d) The slogan is the correct weapon for rallying the poor farmers, who are still under Pacifist illusions, against the coming war.

(e) The slogan constitutes the correct approach of the Party to the French masses.

(f) The slogan must be used in the work of building a mass non-Party, Anti-Imperialist organization.

Trade Union Policy

Continuing, Comrade MacDonald reported that a profitable discussion on the Delegation had taken place on the question of our Trade Union policy in Canada. He had also discussed this question with the A.A.S., of the Profintern. There seems to be some doubt on the efficacy of our slogan of "Amalgamation of the two Congresses." This tends to give the impression of a mere mechanical fusion of the officialdoms of the two Congresses. Unity from above rather than from below. While at our last Convention, our approach to the question of National Unity is quite properly stated in the Resolution adopted, the "Amalgamation of the two Congresses is still to a great extent our Central Slogan. Our pronouncements, articles and leaflets on the Canadian Trade Union question have not been as definite and clear as they ought to have.

There are many difficulties in the work in Canada, of course, and these must not be minimized. The Delegation had drafted a short statement on the Trade Union policy, C.P.C., this was read by Comrade MacDonald.

See Statement attached.

The Canadian Labor Party

This question had also been discussed. It had been agreed that despite the withdrawals from the C.L.P. and the increased sabotage of the Social Democrats, the main line of our policy was corredt. Since the Delegation left, however, there had been other happenings of great important, such as the withdrawal of the I.L.P. and certain Trade Unions in British Columbia, and the withdrawal of the Earlscourt Labor Party in Toronto. This might mean the liquidation in certain localities of the United Front has expressed through the C.L.P.

The Party must fight energetically against the Social Democratic forces who are endeavouring to smash the C.L.P. More work must be done in the Trade Union to maintain and increase the affiliations. There must be no capitulation of the Party however, to the Social Democratic forces while offering the United Front to all working class organizations willing to fight on a programme of working class struggle. The Party at all times must maintain its identity and where no C.L.P. is possible, must enter the field with its own forces against the I.L.P. and the Social Democrats.

It was the opinion of the Delegation that the demand for the Abolition of the Senate should be dropped, as it had a parliamentary-reformist content.

Finnish Language Work

Delegation were of the opinion that our Comrades in the Finnish Organization of Canada must fight for a policy of having the Executive Committee of that organization decide on the merits of widening the scope of the organization rather than adopt a policy of allowing the initiative to come from the Local Units.

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